

BONNIE L. HARPER-LORE

Restoration Ecologist, Ret., representing the
Minnesota Advisory Committee on Invasive Species

While working in the nursery industry in the 1970's, Bonnie purposefully planted purple loosestrife in perennial gardens. Upon learning her mistake, she led a coalition to make Minnesota the first State to add purple loosestrife to its Noxious Weed List and establish Minnesota's DNR Exotic Species Program. This was her first lesson in politics.

Harper-Lore holds a M.S. degree in restoration and management of native plant communities from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Restoration Ecology had not yet been named in 1980. Finding a place to fit her conservation ethic led to the following positions:

- University of Minnesota, teaching ecological principles of design- 9 years
- Minnesota Department of Transportation, establishing its wildflower program - 4 yrs
- National Wildflower Research Center, directing a regional pilot office - 2 years
- FHWA/USDOT, overseeing 50 State roadside programs - 17 years

During her work with the FHWA, she was a founder/writer of MOU agreements:

- the Federal Interagency Committee for Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW)
- the Executive Order 13112 on invasive species
- the Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA)
- the Weeds Across Borders North American Agreement

Since Bonnie's retirement in 2009 she serves on:

1. Minnesota's LCCMR, funding environmental stewardship projects
2. ISAC, advising the National Invasive Species Council
3. NWAC, deciding which invasive plants become listed noxious weeds
4. Make Way for Monarchs, supporting roadside pollinator habitat

Harper-Lore lives with husband, Gary near her daughter and two teen-age grandsons in the suburbs of Minneapolis, Minnesota. In their oak wooded backyard, they have controlled common buckthorn and garlic mustard for 25 years. In their planted prairie front yard, they enjoy native wildflowers and grasses and all the pollinators they attract. Bonnie never imagined the plant world she would explore so far from her family's western Wisconsin farm where she picked native wildflowers on the hillsides and pulled weeds from valley cornfields.